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Urban District of Burnham-on-Sea



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1962

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F B U R N H A M - O N - S E A

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1962

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B., B.S.

Building and Chief Public Health Inspector:

N.B. GRAHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Housing Officer and Assistant Public Health Inspector:

H.F. ROBINSON, M.A.P.H.I.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1962

Health Department,
Albert Street,
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

August, 1963.

To:

The Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1962. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

As far as can be judged from a study of the vital statistics, the general health of the District was satisfactory during the year. As compared with the previous year the Still Birth Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate have shown marked increases, but this is due to the small numbers involved and is not considered to be of significance. On the other hand the number of live births showed an increase of 31 over the previous year and this is welcomed particularly as in previous reports I have drawn attention to the aging of the population of the Urban District which has been and still is taking place.

The importation of smallpox by immigrants from endemic areas and subsequent outbreaks of the disease in this country gave rise to general alarm and although this area was not affected, the Department was under considerable pressure to provide vaccination for all sorts of people who were not at risk. Fortunately restrictions on the supply of vaccine assisted us to adopt a definite policy and for the most part vaccination was provided only for those whose occupation might make them contacts of any cases which might arise, e.g., hospital staffs, ambulance drivers, Health Department staff etc., and to people having contact with infected areas, or who were travelling abroad. In spite of these restrictions a very considerable number of persons were vaccinated and there was much dislocation of routine work.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk, Officials of other departments and the staff of the Public Health Department, for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R.H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore)	2,246 acres
Population (census 1961)	10,020
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1962	10,240
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1962	3,141
Rateable value on 31st December, 1962	£142,493
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1962	£ 567

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1962

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	80	79	159
Illegitimate	7	5	12
	<u>87</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>171</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.53
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.02
Still Births	3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	17.24
Total live and still births	174
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)	4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total	23.39
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	25.16
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	17.54
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	17.54
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	34.48
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	nil
<u>Deaths.</u>	
Total number of deaths	149
Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.55

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 171 births (87 boys and 84 girls) in the Urban District during 1962, being 31 births more than in 1961. Of these births 12 were illegitimate. This is 7.0% of the total live births, as compared with 5.0% in 1961.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Urban District adjusted in this manner is increased from 15.53 to 17.54 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.0.

Birth rates for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Crude Birth Rate	13.39	15.30	14.77	14.16	15.53
Standardised Birth Rate	15.13	17.29	16.69	16.00	17.54
England and Wales	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Urban District during 1962 was 120. Of these 11 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 40 deaths of Urban District residents registered outside the District. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 149 (71 males and 78 females). This was 4 more than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 14.55.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 10.47 per 1,000 of the population and this was compared with 11.9 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Gross Death Rate	12.55	14.10	13.57	14.66	14.55
Standardised Death Rate	9.29	10.29	12.10	11.55	10.47
England and Wales	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9

Of the 149 deaths, 80 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 30 occurred in people in the productive age groups 20 to 64, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group.

	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm of stomach				1		1
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus				1		1
Malignant neoplasm of breast			1	1		2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		2	1	3		6
Vascular lesions of the nervous system					1	1
Coronary disease and angina				1	2	3
Hypertension with heart disease				1	2	3
Other heart disease			1		2	3
Pneumonia			1		2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system					1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1		1			2
All other accidents	1					1
Suicide				1		1
	2	2	5	10	11	30

The following table shows the causes of death and sex distribution:-

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	71	78	149
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	6	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	11	17	28
18. Coronary disease and angina	15	8	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	1	5
20. Other heart disease	6	6	12
21. Other circulatory disease	4	12	16
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis	3	1	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	9	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	2	2	4
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Urban District residents from cancer was 17 (males 6, females 11). This was 2 less than the previous year. Cancer deaths constituted 7.4% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 17 cases:-

Localisation	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1961
Stomach	1	2	3	4
Lung, bronchus	2	-	2	4
Breast	-	2	2	2
Uterus	-	1	1	1
Other and unspecified organs	3	6	9	8
Total	6	11	17	19

It is interesting that this year as in most other years, all the deaths from lung cancer occurred in males. The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table. Positive steps have been taken by the County Council as Local Education Authority to bring home to school leavers the risks attached to smoking. At this age however many people are not greatly concerned about what may happen to them at the age of 45 plus.

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1959					2	1		3
1960				1		1	3	5
1961					1		3	4
19 2						1	1	2

Deaths from heart Disease.

Of 149 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 4 (males 25, females 15). It represented 20.1% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Infantile Mortality.

4 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 23.39 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.4.

The following table shows the causes of death:-

Infantile Mortality during 1962

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital absence of kidneys	1				1
Congenital disease of heart				1	1
Acute pulmonary oedema	1				1
Severe immaturity	1				1
	3			1	4

Population.

The estimated population of the Urban District as at June 1962 was 10,240, which shows an increase of 350 on the previous year. It is interesting to note population changes and the following table illustrates the trend during the past twelve years:-

Year	Population increase	Natural increase	Change due to emigration or immigration
1951	64	- 22	+ 86
1952	70	22	+ 48
1953	116	25	+ 91
1954	54	45	+ 9
1955	50	12	+ 38
1956	60	- 6	+ 66
1957	30	- 8	+ 38
1958	- 10	11	- 21
1959	80	16	+ 64
1960	230	- 18	+ 248
1961	-130	- 5	- 125
1962	350	22	328

Natural increase = excess of births over deaths.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS

AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Urban District during 1962. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by the medical practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	Age unknown	Total	Admitted to Hosp.
Cold	1		1	1		2	1								6	
Scarlet fever								1							1	
Whooping cough			1	1	1	5		1							9	
Pneumonia		1	1			1	1		1		1		4	1	11	
Puerperal pyrexia										2					2	
TOTAL	1	1	3	2	1	8	2	2	1	2	1		4	1	29	

During the previous year 139 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 169 children under the age of 5 years and 21 children between the ages of 5 -- 15 years (giving a total of 190) were immunised against the disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

No cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections or three doses of Oral vaccine) and the number of persons who received reinforcements during 1962.

Children born 1962		Children born 1943-61		Young persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 years of age & Priority Groups	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
1	2	65	22	15	2	22	-

Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a third reinforcing injection	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a fourth reinforcing injection	Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk inj.	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral vaccine after three Salk inj.
158	47	146	32

Measles.

6 cases were notified, as compared with 129 in the previous year.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of confirmed cases was 1.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of persons vaccinated or revaccinated during the year was 2,403, as compared with 103 in the previous year.

Persons Vaccinated

Under 1 year		1 to 4 years		5 to 14 years		15 years and over	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
126	2	95	26	372	449	448	885

P = Primary vaccination

R = Re-vaccination

Vaccination is now voluntary, but the value of individual vaccination is, in my opinion, undiminished and I would advise all parents to have their children vaccinated, preferably during the second year of life.

Tetanus Vaccination.

Tetanus vaccination is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December 1962 was as follows:-

Children born in the years:-							
1962	61	60	59	58	53-57	48-52	Total
59	95	9	4	2	15	2	186

Tuberculosis.

It is noteworthy to report that in 1962 only 1 new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified, and that no cases of the non-respiratory form of the disease were reported.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity to tuberculosis of school leavers, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending school in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 512 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced BCG infection with tuberculosis. 421 of these gave a negative test and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Mass Radiography.

A Mass Radiography Unit visited Burnham Town Hall, Morland's Factory, Highbridge Bacon Company and Highbridge Market Square during October 1962. A total of 1,445 persons (603 male, 842 female) attended for examination.

16 abnormalities were detected. The abnormalities were varied, and included one case of tuberculosis requiring close supervision and four old standing healed tuberculous conditions.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year include:-

Water samples	24
Ice cream samples	53

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 161 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of case:-

Maternity	22
Old age and infirmity	108
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic sick	17
Post operation	3
Emergency illness	5
Other cases	4

In many cases assisted, the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.62 was as follows:-

Full time	7
Part time	24

Welfare of Old People.

The Council are now assisting the W.V.S. to provide meals on wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is much appreciated by the recipients. An average of 48 meals per week are distributed.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Housing.

The number of permanent dwellings in the Urban District	3,440
The number of permanent dwellings owned by the Local Authority	551
Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owner or following the issue of Closing Orders	13
Number of houses made fit during the year	31

	Houses/flats erected during the year		Houses in course of erection	
	For slum clearance	For other purposes	For slum clearance	For other purposes
Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	91	-	58
Total	-	91	-	58

In the period from 1st April 1945 to 31st December 1962 a total of 926 houses have been built. These were made up of 415 by the Local Authority and 511 by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 267 applicants for Council houses.

Water Supplies.

The mains water supply was satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. The water is treated by chlorination and bacteriological tests were carried out on the treated water on 16 occasions, all of which gave excellent results.

Regrouping of the water Undertaking with the Bristol Waterworks Company became effective on 1st October, 1962.

Sewage Disposal.

As mentioned in previous reports, the condition of the main sewerage system of the District gives rise to anxiety. Emergency measures have been taken by the Council to repair the main sewer at certain manholes which were known to be in a critical state. The sewers generally are overloaded and are frequently surcharged. Building development is continuing in the Urban District at a comparatively rapid rate and it is therefore imperative that a major scheme of resewering be proceeded with at an early date.

Conditions at the Clyce outfall at Highbridge remain unaltered. In my report for last year I welcomed the decision of the Council to include this project in a more comprehensive scheme. I hope however that this will not result in further undue delay in securing effective abatement of conditions which present a constant threat to the residents of the area and which could well have serious effects on the economy of the Urban District should cases of typhoid fever occur.

Camping Sites.

No licences have been issued for stationing of individual moveable dwellings. Four camping sites have been licensed, providing altogether for 480 moveable dwellings. Sanitary conditions remain satisfactory. The existing sites have been reasonably well conducted during the holiday season and plans for improvements on two sites have been approved by the Council for works to be implemented in the coming year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Urban District.

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered for manufacture
and sale 2

For retail only 58

53 samples were taken during the year, the results
being as follows:-

37 samples were placed in Provisional Grade	1
3 samples were placed in Provisional Grade	2
6 samples were placed in Provisional Grade	3
7 samples were placed in Provisional Grade	4

Samples which fall into grades 1 and 2 are considered
to be satisfactory. Samples reported in grades 3 and 4 are
followed by inspection, and where indicated advice is given
on measures necessary to improve the quality of the product.

Slaughterhouses.

Ample facilities for slaughtering are available at
the abattoir at Weston-super-Mare, and consequently the only
slaughterhouse in the District which is licensed is that of
the Highbridge Bacon Company.

The system of post mortem inspection in operation
is that all carcasses are thoroughly examined by well-trained
personnel employed by the Bacon Company. All carcasses
suspected of having any abnormal condition are separated
for further detailed examination; the number of carcasses so
dealt with during the year was 5,305. The Public Health
Inspector attends each day when slaughtering takes place,
checks over the carcasses and makes final decisions regarding
condemnation.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year were as follows:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows, Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed				40,378	
Number inspected				40,378	
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned				58	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				1,656	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci				4.24	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned				2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				3,649	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis				9.03	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				-	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration				-	
Generalised and totally condemned				-	
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for					
(a) Tuberculosis				34,355	
(b) Cysticercosis				-	
(c) Other				12,997	
Total (in lbs.) condemned				47,352	

Premises where food is prepared.

No statutory action was taken regarding enforcement of the provision of the Food and Drugs Act, and co-operation from food traders has continued to be good and improvements have been made to premises and equipment.

Knackers Yard.

One knackers yard is registered in this District and is visited frequently.

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping into disused clay pits, followed by covering of the tipped refuse. The provision of mechanical aids for tip maintenance has helped considerably to effect improvement in conditions at the refuse tip.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1961.

Premises	Number on Register	Insp	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	38	8		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	88	34		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).				
Total	126	42		

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
Total	2	2			

PART VIII

(Sections 133 and 134)

Section 133				Section 134		
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.,) Cleaning) and) Washing	4					



